

U.S. Reportedly Decides On Three Cities to Visit

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WASHINGTON, April 19 — Scores of United States Government officials continued to labor today over big and not so big decisions connected with President Nixon's trip to the Soviet Union next month, including the places he will visit, the books he will read and the television coverage he will generate.

Many experts were stunned by the news of the bombing of Haiphong last weekend, but concern that the trip might be canceled diminished when the Polish Ambassador on Monday made an elaborate and warm presentation formally inviting the President to Warsaw on his way back from the Soviet Union and Iran.

It was assumed by the White House that if the Russians had wanted to signal some doubts about the trip, they would have told their Polish allies not to issue the invitation. By today, on the basis of the Soviet public statements and private diplomatic contacts, the Central Intelligence Agency and the State Department agreed that the Soviet Union wants the trip to go ahead as much as President Nixon does.

An advance party arrived in Moscow today for nuts-and-bolts issues of the trip, and in Washington some old problems were solved and new ones raised.

3 Stops in Soviet

After weeks of consultation, the White House has reportedly decided on three stops in the Soviet Union — Moscow, Leningrad and Kiev.

There was much discussion over the third stop. The Russians wanted Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, but the state department pointed out that Iran and the Soviet Union have long had disputes over Azerbaijan and this ruled it out.

The State Department then proposed Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia, but that was vetoed because the White House feared adverse publicity stemming from the fact that Tbilisi is near Stalin's birthplace, Gori.

The Armenian capital of Eri-van, had some supporters, but Kiev, the capital of the Ukraine, was finally chosen. Not only is the Ukraine the second most important republic

after Russia, but also, as a domestic political consideration, there are more Ukrainians than Armenians in the United States.

The White House was not sure, however, whether Ukrainian and other Soviet emigres in this country would welcome the decision to go to Kiev. Major Ukrainian groups in this country have tended recently to advocate increased United States contact with the Ukraine — possibly to encourage separatist tendencies in the area.

Briefing Books Readied

Briefing books — those fat compendiums of information — are nearing completion. Some briefing books are on issues, known in the trade as "talking points," and will supply Mr. Nixon with policy suggestions in his talks with Leonid I. Brezhnev, the party leader, Premier Aleksei N. Kosygin, and President Nikolai V. Podgorny.

Other briefing books contain background information on the Soviet leaders, the places Mr. Nixon will visit, do's and don't's for White House people and practical questions.

A suggested reading list was sent to the White House containing such titles as Robert Conquest's "The Great Terror" and Wright Miller's "Russians as People." It also contains a little-known paperback analysis of last year's 24th Communist Party Congress and Ninth Five Year Plan, put together by the State Department, the C.I.A., the United States Information Agency and academic analysts in Washington.

As the decision to go to Kiev and Warsaw indicates, the White House is aware of ethnic interest in Mr. Nixon's trip. Polish-American groups were alerted to the Polish invitation before it was formally announced.

Heavy pressure is coming from American Jewish groups on behalf of Soviet Jews who want to emigrate to Israel.

The Jewish groups want a commitment from the White House that Soviet Jews will be "on the agenda" in Moscow. White House aides say there will probably be no formal agenda, but that Mr. Nixon will undoubtedly make known to Soviet officials his support of emigration.

TV Executives in Moscow

Several television network executives are in Moscow discussing with Soviet officials plans for television coverage of the visit. At the moment, fewer broadcasting hours are scheduled than were given to Mr. Nixon's trip to China.

The political climate has an inevitable effect on many facets of the trip. Because of Vietnamese tensions, White House aides are shying away from having Mr. Nixon stay in the Kremlin, as the Russians have suggested, and are saying that they would prefer that he reside in a guest house in Lenin Hills above the city.

Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz, who met Mr. Brezhnev last week in Moscow, held a news conference here today and stressed that the political relations between the two countries would largely determine future economic ties.

"It's my opinion that before we have any substantial grain sale there's got to be some evidence of a thawing of political relationships that currently exist. They've got to show some evidence, too, that they are a part of the community of nations," he said, apparently alluding to Soviet aid to Hanoi.